

## Wheels up to Macedonia... President calls 852 RAOC

*By Capt. Eileen Bienz, State Public Affairs Officer*

Forty members of the Tucson-based 852<sup>nd</sup> Rear Area Operations Center departed Sunday, June 25, for their mobilization station at Ft. Benning,



*Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Trudie Cooke*

*Leaving family behind, members of the 852nd Rear Area Operations Center board an Arizona Air National Guard KC-135 Stratotanker that will take them to Ft Benning, Ga., for deployment to the Balkans.*

Ga., before deploying to the Balkans region on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

The 852 RAOC is the only Army National Guard unit in the country to be mobilized in support of the ongoing operations in Macedonia.

The 852 RAOC was transported to Georgia by an Arizona Air National Guard KC-135 Stratotanker and departed from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Tucson.

Soldiers and family members said their last goodbyes while waiting to board the aircraft. Media representatives from local Tucson news stations interviewed soldiers and families.

Steve Jewett, Director, Governor's Southern Arizona Office, represented Governor Jane Dee Hull to tell soldiers and their family members how much Governor Hull appreciated their service to their country.

When boarding time came, the wait was over. Soldiers hoisted their baggage and boarded waiting busses for transport to the aircraft.

The mission of the 852 RAOC is to organize units such as field hospitals, transportation, supply units and military police into an integrated unit. A RAOC serves as a direct link between those units and the major field commander.

Jewett also gave appreciation for all the other Arizona Army National Guard units that are currently serving and have served their country in the Balkans. Detachment 1, 416th Air Traffic Service Company returned to Arizona on August 28 after serving in Bosnia since January 14. They arrived at Sky Harbor International Airport, Phoenix, aboard a commercial aircraft. (See page 2 for the story.)

## From the desk of the Command Sergeant Major of the Arizona Army National Guard....

The Arizona Army National Guard is a great place to spend time: time training in your military occupational skill; time developing your leadership skills and taking on new challenges with greater responsibility; time furthering your civilian education; time meeting new and interesting friends who share your commitment to our Country, State and Community.

But you already know all of that. That's why you are a member of the Arizona Army National Guard. Now, what we need is for you to spread the word, and encourage a friend to join up and share your experiences. If you have someone in mind, call your unit-affiliated recruiter and let's get the ball rolling. Or you can call me at (602) 267-2604. And, if your friend joins, I want to meet with you personally. We have a lot of great soldiers in our organization. Let's share our secret and make this an even better Arizona Army National Guard.



CSM THOMAS MATTHEW

## 416th Air Traffic Service Company returns from Bosnia

By Sgt. 1st Class Trudie Cooke

Twenty-two members of the 416th Air Traffic Service Company returned to Phoenix on August 28 after serving nine months in Bosnia. They landed at Sky Harbor International Airport aboard Delta Airlines flight #345.

Greeted by cheers, banners and balloons, the 416th soldiers embraced family and friends after disembarking from the aircraft. Family members rushed to meet loved ones. Words of "I missed you," "Welcome home," "Good job," poured forth.

The 416th served in Bosnia-Herzegovina as part of the ongoing NATO peacekeeping mission known as Operation Joint Forge. They coordinated air traffic in the area. They departed Arizona on January 4, 1999 for their mobilization station at Ft. Benning, Ga., before deploying to the Balkans on January 14.



*With banners and balloons, family members wait for loved ones to arrive at Sky Harbor International Airport (top). The embrace of love tells the 416th Air Traffic Service Company soldier that he's home. Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Trudie Cooke.*



### HELIOGRAPH

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# Soldier benefits... Commissary Privileges

The Defense Commissary Agency operates a world-wide system of more than 230 grocery supermarkets to sell groceries and household supplies to members of the military services, their families and other authorized patrons. DeCA estimates that a Reserve component member with a family of four that takes full advantage of their shopping privilege can save approximately \$2,000 a year on grocery purchases. Commissary privileges are a part of the non-pay compensation package to which active and Reserve members are entitled.

Members of the National Guard and their families are currently entitled to 24 days of commissary shopping a year, provided the service member earns 50 or more retirement points for military service in a calendar year. Guardsmen and their families also have unlimited commissary privileges when the service member is on federal active duty orders, or on state orders in support of a federally declared disaster.

The 24-visit benefit is also provided to members of the Retired Reserve, or retirees who become eligible for retired pay at age 60, but have yet to attain that age. Retired soldiers and their dependents have unlimited commissary privileges.

Access to commissaries is strictly controlled. Guardsmen must present their Military Identification Card plus their Commissary Privilege Card to gain entry. Spouses and dependent children between the ages of 10 and 21 must present their Dependent ID Card and the sponsor's commissary card. The sponsor need not be present for a family member to use the commissary. Each day of shopping is recorded.

Commissary cards are issued by the member's unit at the beginning of each calendar year. Members of the Retired Reserve will receive a card annually via the mail. When a service member is on federal active duty, or on state orders in support of a federally declared disaster, a copy of the duty orders is accepted in place of the commissary card.

Commissaries now accept major credit cards and personal checks for purchase. A 5% surcharge is added to each commissary purchase. Collected funds are used to build new commissaries, renovate existing ones, purchase equipment and operating supplies, pay for utilities and maintain facilities.

There are four commissaries in Arizona. Their locations and telephone numbers are as follows: Luke Air Force Base (602) 935-3821; Davis-Monthan Air Force Base (520) 228-3244; Ft Huachuca (520) 533-5540; and Yuma Proving Grounds (520) 328-2264.



## How has the Arizona Army National Guard made you a better person?

### HEADQUARTERS STARC

**Sgt. 1st Class Ray Campbell, Storage Operations NCO**  
**Hometown: Tempe**

"I have a greater appreciation for others. Having been called up for several relief deployments, I have witnessed first hand what others have lost. It has made me proud for what we, as guard members, can contribute to the community."



**Sgt. David Sims, Stock Control NCO**  
**Hometown: Phoenix**

"It has shown me the needs of other people other than my needs. Helping to prepare for missions overseas, and for local and national emergencies, gives me a great sense of job satisfaction. It certainly helps me keep everything, in my life, in proper perspective."

**Staff Sgt. Earl Vondale, Material Operations NCO**

**Hometown: Mesa**

"Because of my drill weekends and working extra hours, I have become a devoted and focused person. This hard work ethic keeps me very centered. It is something I enjoy very much."



**Staff Sgt. Robert Christianson, Material Operations NCO**  
**Hometown: Phoenix**

"Teamwork, motivation, the physical training have all played a positive impact in my life. It has given me greater opportunities for career progression. It all keeps me motivated to be the best I can. I like knowing what I do impacts both the National Guard and the active duty component."

# Camp Navajo hosts Open House

*Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Seth Israel*

Celebrating its 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Open House, Camp Navajo uses this event to tell local residents its success story. The Open House drew about 5,000 participants this year.

Visitors were treated to static displays, a train ride, a pie-eating contest, a World War II battle re-enactment and a Native American dance performance. On Friday evening, a barbeque was held, and early Saturday morning the annual 10K Race. Those participating in the race ranged in age from the mid-twenties to the mid-seventies.

Located 12 miles west of Flagstaff, in north central Arizona, Camp Navajo is a premiere training site for both Arizona Army and Air National Guard members.

The camp was built in 1942, as an ordnance depot, to supply the Pacific Theater of operation during World War II. In 1982 the Arizona Army National Guard assumed operational control of the facility. A primary reason for the assumption of this responsibility is to provide a location for individual and collective training opportunities for Arizona's National Guardsmen and women.

"We feel that the Camp Navajo Open House provides a healthy family atmosphere and a unique opportunity for the people of Flagstaff and northern Arizona to see things that are out of the ordinary," said Lt. Col. Timothy J. Cowan, Deputy Commander for Camp Navajo.

The annual 10K run drew runners from all walks of life, and from all over Arizona.

"I have been running all my life," said Matthew Zhine, an avid participant of this race. "However, as I'm getting older, I find my running has slowed down. I am not as fast as I used to be when I was in my 60s."

The 76-year-old is a resident of Flagstaff and a member of the Navajo. He is a World War II veteran who served as a crew chief while stationed in England.







Matthew Zhine runs the 10K race.

“My turn...my turn,” children cried as they tryout the controls of the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter (left). Adults (above) show just as much curiosity as they children as they look at the Blackhawk. The Blackhawk was one static display that drew the curious and aircraft buff. Another event was the pie-eating contest that brought both the hungry and the competitive to the table. “Everyone” was a winner in this game.



Matthew Zhine, a proud World War II veteran, takes a well-deserved rest after the annual 10K race.



Camp Navajo’s 10K race draws runners from all walks of life and from all over Arizona. This year’s race was no different. Forty people participated. The winner of the race was a 56-year-old from Flagstaff. The oldest runner was Matthew Zhine, a 76-year-old.

# 6 Tonopah man grabs Grand Canyon gold

*By Matt Morgan. Story courtesy of  
West Valley View, Litchfield Park, Ariz.*

It took Fritz Rasmussen, a supply sergeant at the Mesa-based 1st Battalion, 180th Field Artillery of the Arizona Army National Guard, just four competitions inside two years to win a gold medal in an Olympic-style event, and he did so without formal training.

At the Grand Canyon State Games, June 19-20, Rasmussen competed in the 5K run, the 50-yard and 100-yard freestyle swims, and the 50-yard breast-stroke.

He won the bronze medal in the 5K at Sun Angel Stadium at Arizona State University on June 19 with a personal-best of 27 minutes, 56 seconds.

Rasmussen's next swimming event, the 50-yard freestyle, yielded gold. His gold-medal time, 33:84, is his personal best in the event, though he still needed to be convinced he won the race.

"I was shocked when I found out they called my name for the gold medal," Rasmussen said. "I really thought they made a mistake. Mentally I wasn't prepared to accept the fact that I had beaten another guy, because most of these guys train year-round in the pool."

Rasmussen's championship swim helped fulfill a goal he set for himself more than 40 years ago. He graduated in 1961 from Mesa High School where he



*Sgt. 1st Class Fritz Rasmussen, 1st Battalion, 180th Field Artillery, Headquarters Company, shares his June 20 Gold Medal triumph with his three daughters, Nylene, Shirlene and Angelene. Rasmussen won in the swimming 50-yard freestyle event. Photo courtesy of the Rasmussen family.*

was a pole-vaulter and member of the school's first gymnastics team.

At the suggestion of an Army National Guard recruiter Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Nance, Rasmussen first tried out for the Grand Canyon State Games in August 1998. Nance, who holds Grand Canyon records in the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes, tries to get guardsmen involved to keep up their fitness levels.

"I saw him as a potential because he had run in the Senior Olympics before," Nance said.

"There's a very small percentage of people that ever represent their country in the Olympics," he said. "I'm just so grateful they have what is called the Arizona Olympics (Grand Canyon State Games), because this is really about the only Olympic experience that most of us will ever have."

## Museum displays Arizona National Guard story

"The Arizona Military Museum is one of the finest military museums in the country," said Vincent Leone, the new museum director.

The museum is an official activity of the Arizona National Guard. It has been open since 1980. The museum staff are all volunteers who donate their time to operate the museum, and do construction and maintenance.

The displays cover the military history of Arizona and her soldiers from

the Conquistador period, the 1540s, to Desert Storm, 1991. The exhibits show weapons, uniforms, and photographs for the time period on display.

The museum is located at 52<sup>nd</sup> Street and McDowell Road, just north on the east corner. It is open from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

There is no admission fee, however, donations are encouraged.

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Seth Isreal.*





## Reaching for the Gold... OCS Class 39 marches onward



Left: Capt. Michael Tapia, Commander Bravo Company, 158th Regional Training Institute, and candidates tend blisters during a rest period. Right: Officer Candidates of Class 39 complete a 12-mile march with full packs in the early morning hours through Papago Park, Phoenix. OCS Class 39 graduated August 14. Photos by Staff Sgt. Seth Isreal.

## National Guard soldiers join with Wilson School District in neighborhood cleanup

*By Chief Warrant Officer Larry Cox, Headquarters STARC, and Lt. Col. Kevin Osterman, Headquarters Air National Guard*

On Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, approximately 50 Arizona Army National Guard personnel joined ranks with students, teachers, administrators, and volunteers from the Wilson School District, in Phoenix, to conduct a massive neighborhood cleanup.

This is the first of many projects planned by the Arizona National Guard to support the school district. Formed into teams and lead by Arizona Army National Guard Officer Cadets, students and other volunteers removed trash from the streets and alleys of an area that spanned 24<sup>th</sup> Street to 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, and Van Buren Street to Papago Freeway.

As the teams spread through the neighborhood, additional children and adults from the area joined in. A large trash removal bin was filled nearly to capacity. Each team member received a certificate

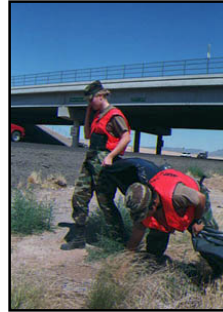


*Photo by Chief Warrant Officer Larry Cox*

*Arizona Army National Guardsmen and women team with Wilson School District teachers, students and administrators for a neighborhood cleanup drive on May 15.*

of appreciation, and the most outstanding performers received an official Arizona Army National Guard T-shirt.

# 8 158th Corps Support Battalion adopts a highway



*Sgt. 1st Class Art Branding (left), Detachment Sergeant, 158th Headquarters Detachment, and others, fill trash bags during the highway clean-up.*

## **Story and Photo by Staff Sgt. Seth Israel**

On June 5, the 158<sup>th</sup> Corps Support Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, was talking community service and apparently for good reason. They have teamed up with the Arizona Department of Transportation and the Adopt-A-Highway program. Picking up the trash throughout their one mile stretch is paramount for the success of the program.

Participants of the program must clean both sides of the road, at least, four times a year. Seventeen personnel of the 158<sup>th</sup> arrived on site at 7:00am. They were handed bags and sent in search of roadside trash. As the day progressed, the troops certainly received a better appreciation for what it takes to maintain a highway. If you drive Interstate 10 Eastbound, the 158<sup>th</sup> adopt-a-mile sign stands between exits 164 and 165.

"We thought it would take maybe 85 to 90 bags. The final toll was actually 125 bags," said Capt. Miguel Rhinehart, HHD Commander for the 158<sup>th</sup>. ADOT is responsible for picking up the bagged trash.

"By having a sign along the highway, designating the 158<sup>th</sup> CSB as the adopters, we have sent a public service announcement to the community," Rhinehart said. "We are broadcasting, by our actions, that we are actively involved with the concerns of our community."

"It was nice to get out of the office and do something different," said Spc. John Lynch. "Even the passing cars and trucks supported us. With smiles, drivers waved and honked their horns. We definitely made a positive impression."

## **Calling all Heliograph readers!!**

We invite your comments on the new, all-color format of this publication. Let us know if you like the new format, and what changes you would like to see.

Forward your comments via email to [cocket@az.ngb.army.mil](mailto:cocket@az.ngb.army.mil) or mail you comments to the 123rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.

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